

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE 7



CLASS OF 2027  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
2021 / 2022

## Year-Long Required Classes

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** The objective of this course is for students to communicate effectively using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The course content will focus on a variety of genres of fiction and nonfiction texts. Students will implement strategies to comprehend reading selections and express themselves clearly and thoughtfully. Students will also write in a variety of forms for different audiences, practice the components of the writing process, and develop writing pieces in accordance with Common Core State Standards.

**CHALLENGE LANGUAGE ART:** Students enrolling in this advanced class must meet or exceed standard on state assessments and have a B or better in 6th Challenge Language Arts.

In this course, students will demonstrate their ability and willingness to work independently and collaboratively at an accelerated pace. They will implement strategies to comprehend reading selections, express themselves clearly and thoughtfully, problem solve, and work at a rigorous pace with complex texts. Students will also write in a variety of forms for different audiences, practice the components of the writing process, and develop writing pieces in accordance with Common Core State Standards. Students are expected to enter this course with the ability to communicate effectively using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

**MATH 7:** Students build the skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course covers the topics such as tables, graphs, variables, linear relationships, ratio, proportion, probability, statistics, and geometry.

**PRE-ALGEBRA:** Students enrolling in this advanced class must meet or exceed standard on state assessments, have a B or better in 6th Challenge Math and be recommended by the teacher. Students should demonstrate strong organizational skills, be highly motivated, and be willing to consistently put forth strong effort. Pre-Algebra condenses two years of math into one year and is taught at a rigorous pace. Students build the skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course takes a focused look at the following topics: irrational numbers, exponents, linear systems, functions, Pythagorean Theorem, transformational geometry (including similarity and congruence), and statistics.

**ALGEBRA: (Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra in the 6th Grade with a B or better)** Students build the skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course takes a focused look at the following topics: seeing structure in expressions; polynomials; inequalities; linear, quadratic, and exponential equations; functions; interpreting and evaluating statistics. This is a 9th grade credit course that will be automatically included on the High School transcript.

**SCIENCE:** 7th grade builds on the skill sets developed in 6th grade. Core ideas in life science, earth science, physical science, and engineering are intentionally arranged so that students can build their understanding over time, and can see the connections between different ideas and across disciplines. To figure out these core ideas, while building the skills that will help them make sense of the world around them, students engage in the same practices that real scientists and engineers do. Students will develop and use models, analyze data, and make evidence-based arguments. They also learn useful ways of thinking about and making connections across different areas of science and engineering. Key units of study will include Population and Resources, Ecosystems, Chemical Reactions, Phase Change, Plate Motion, Rock Transformation, and Geology on Mars.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** The objective of this course is to understand how physical geography contributes to the political, economic, and cultural developments of civilizations. Elements of geography, sociology, economics, political science, and civics will be used to compare a variety of civilizations. Course content will include: Medieval and Renaissance Europe, Islamic Civilization, African Kingdom, Meso-America, and Andean Civilization. Students will also be taught to think critically, analyze information, research topics and report about concepts they've learned.

**WELLNESS: (PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH)**

The objective of this course is to provide opportunities for students to plan, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive wellness plan. Students will be able to apply health concepts in a physical education setting.

## **Electives**

**Students have one elective choice in their schedule. Please select one of the choices from below.**

### **Choice 1: DESIGN AND MODELING**

This is a year-long S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). Students will complete projects by defining the project, designing a solution, and building the product. Students will create models using manipulatives and computers to solve everyday problems and will explore the use of hand and machine tools. Students will produce items individually and in groups. Major units include measuring and freehand orthographic sketching, machine safety, manufacturing processes, simple circuits, programming, website creation, apps, and game designs. This class will lay the groundwork for the high school principles of engineering courses and ultimately a career in some aspect of the engineering field.

### **Choice 2: BEGINNING BAND or INTERMEDIATE BAND - choice of one year long course**

**BEGINNING BAND:** Students will learn how to read music and play a band instrument. Music experience is not required. The basic instrument choices for are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Baritone/Euphonium. Percussion includes BOTH bells and snare and teacher permission is required. **NOTE: Piano, Ukulele, violin, and guitar are not part of the band.** Other instrument options may be available with permission from the teacher. The band will perform a number of different concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class. Students enrolling in this class make a year-long commitment. Families will need to provide or rent their own instrument and purchase the cleaning supplies and band book. A limited number of instruments are available to loan to students. Rental meetings will be held at a later date.

**INTERMEDIATE BAND: Intermediate Band is for students who have a year or more experience playing a band instrument.** Students complete Sound Innovations Book One and continue to Sound Innovations Book Two. The instrument choices are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, and percussion. Other instrument options (oboe, bassoon, baritone sax, tuba, bass) are available with permission from the teacher. **Piano, ukulele, violin, drumset, and guitar are not played in band.** The Band will perform a minimum of three concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class and are part of the grade. Families must provide or rent their own instrument, purchase the cleaning supplies and band book. A limited number of instruments are available to loan to students. Rental meetings will be held at a later date.

### **Choice 3: CHOIR - year long course**

Students will learn the fundamentals of singing, musical vocabulary, and musical notation/reading music. They will learn how to use proper vocal techniques in order to perform music expressively and to enhance individual skills. Students will learn to understand the content and context of the music we perform through musical analysis. Students will sing songs in different languages, styles, and cultures. The Choir will perform a minimum of three concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class.

### **Choice 4: LEADERSHIP - year long course**

Leadership class is designed to improve communication, leadership, self-awareness, and human relation skills in and outside of a school setting. The structure of this class will include leadership lessons and activities to improve the school culture. Student work will include weekly meetings with the teacher and self-reflection, small committees working toward common goals, and participation in one large leadership project each semester. **This class is by application and teacher recommendation only, application packets are in the office.**

## ***Special Programs***

**These programs may replace electives or core classes listed above for students who qualify.**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Specially designed individualized instruction is offered for students who qualify for special education programs. There are different levels of support offered which is determined by the individual student's education plan.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS:** Students for whom English is not their first language are offered instruction with vocabulary and reading. To qualify for ELL services, students take a language proficiency test.

**LAP MATH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:** Students who are not meeting standard on state assessments in Math or English Language Arts may qualify for additional support. Students who qualify for LAP support will be notified during the summer.

**HICAP:** Our highly capable program is offered for students that have qualified through district assessment for Math and Language Arts. Students that are designated as Hi Cap in one or both of these areas are placed into Advanced Challenge Language Arts and/or Algebra unless they request differently.